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C O N T E N T S

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LAOS: Talks again at an impasse.
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LAOS: THE LAOTIAN NEGOTIATIONS ARE ONCE AGAIN AT AN IMPASSE. VIENTIANE'S CHIEF NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN SAID ON 3 JULY THAT HE AND HIS COMMUNIST COUNTERPART PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAVE AGREED THAT NO FURTHER PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE IN THEIR TALKS UNLESS CONCESSIONS ARE MADE ON THE MAJOR POLITICAL AND MILITARY DIFFERENCES STILL SEPARATING THE TWO SIDES. PHENG DOES NOT EXPECT TO MEET WITH PHOUMI AGAIN "IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS" SINCE PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA HAS NO PLANS "FOR THE TIME BEING" TO COME FORWARD WITH ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS TO THE COMMUNISTS. SOUVANNA'S SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE OF 1 JULY FOR FINAL AGREEMENT HAS NOW LAPSED, AND HE APPEARS DISPOSED TO BIDE HIS TIME IN THE HOPE THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL SOFTEN THEIR DEMANDS.

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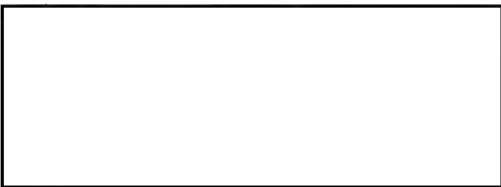
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